

Message Text

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:EMROWELL:BJR
APPROVED BY EUR:R. BARBOUR
AA/NESA:JKNOLL
DOD/ISA:JANNUNZIATA
EB/ORF:FSPILLMAN
S/S:AWOTTO
-----112123Z 038512 /62
R 111520Z JUN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LISBON

S E C R E T STATE 135709

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, PO

SUBJECT:AZORES BASE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: LISBON 4556

1. STATE AND DOD/ISA REPRESENTATIVES WILL BE IN LISBON FOR JUNE 17 SESSION AS AGREED BY MEDEIROS FERREIRA. HOWEVER, WE HAVE TACTICAL AND SUBSTANTIVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT CONDUCTING THE JUNE 17 SESSION WITH THE FULL PORTUGUESE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE, INCLUDING AZOREANS, BECAUSE: (A) WE WOULD THEN HAVE A TRIPARTITE NEGOTIATION WITH US IN THE MIDDLE BETWEEN THE GOP AND THE AZOREANS. (B) THE BALANCE BETWEEN THE RIGHTS RECEIVED AND THE ASSISTANCE OFFERED CAN BE PROPERLY VALUED ONLY FROM A PORTUGUESE NATIONAL PERSPECTIVE. FOR EXAMPLE, HALF OF THE \$120 MILLION WE ARE AUTHORIZED TO TABLE WOULD
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BE GRANT MILITARY ASSISTANCE. WHILE THIS CLEARLY IS IMPORTANT TO PORTUGAL AS A WHOLE, WE DOUBT THAT IT HAS DIRECT VALUE FOR THE AZOREANS. (C) WE PREFER NOT TO SEEM TO CONFER ON THE AZOREANS A SPECIAL STATUS IN RELATION TO THE U.S. (D) WE NOTE AND AGREE WITH YOUR INTENT TO USE ADDITIONAL COMMODITY ASSISTANCE BEING CONSIDERED FOR THIS FISCAL YEAR TO ENHANCE THE NEGOTIATING ATMOSPHERE. BUT

CCC LOANS, WHILE IMPORTANT TO PORTUGAL'S OVERALL BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, DO NOT BENEFIT THE AZORES DIRECTLY.

2. OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE: (A) FIRST MEET WITH VILLAS BOAS AND OTHERS FOR FINAL "INFORMAL TALK" TO SETTLE ASSISTANCE TO BE OFFERED, DURATION OF RENEWAL, AND ANY OTHER OUTSTANDING POINTS. (B) THEN, IF VILLAS BOAS DESIRES MEET WITH PORTUGUESE INTER-AGENCY TASK FORCE INCLUDING AZOREANS TO DEFEND AND EXPLAIN OUR LIMITS. WE COULD ALSO EXPLORE OTHER POSSIBLE FORMS OF HELP THAT WOULD NOT REQUIRE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION, INCLUDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP DEFINE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS. FYI DOUBT WE CAN GET BROAD EXIM BANK COMMITMENT OF 1971 TYPE, BUT ARE CONTINUING TO TRY. END FYI. VANCE

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